

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00016 201057Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 ACDA-12 MCT-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /088 W  
-----077959 210301Z /20

R 201039Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS BELFAST 016

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, UK  
SUBJECT: IRA RETURNS TO THE BIG BOMB

1. IN A RETURN TO THE "BIG BOMB" TYPE OF ATTACK, ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 19, THE IRA SET OFF LARGE CAR BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN THE CENTER OF DUNGANNON AND COOKSTOWN. THE BOMBS WERE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO INFLICT A MAXIMUM OF DAMAGE TO THE POLICE, 5 OF WHOM WERE INJURED IN THE ATTACKS, TWO SERIOUSLY. BOTH BOMBS CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE, TO THE RESPECTIVE TOWNS AND THE COOKSTOWN BOMBING WAS DESCRIBED BY A POLICE SPOKESMAN AS "A DELIBERATE AND COLD-BLOODED ATTEMPT TO LURE POLICE TO THE SCENE UNDER A FALSE PRETEXT AND KILL THEM."

2. ON THE SAME DAY IN LONDONDERRY THREE POLICEMEN WERE INJURED WHEN GUNMEN OPENED FIRE ON THEIR VEHICLE. IN ADDITION FIREBOMBS DESTROYED A SHOP IN DOWN-TOWN BELFAST, AND THAT, COUPLED WITH SEVERAL BOMB HOAXES AND A SUSPECT CAR WHICH WAS LATER BLOWN UP BY THE ARMY, FORCED THE CLOSURE OF SEVERAL MAIN STREETS. THIS CAUSED TRAFFIC CHAOS IN THE CITY CENTER.

3. MANY PEOPLE EXPECTED THAT WITH THE END TO THE FIREMENS STRIKE ON JANUARY 16 THERE WOULD BE AN EASING-OFF OF THE IRA'S  
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CURRENT FIREBOMBING CAMPAIGN. THUS FAR NO SUCH EASING HAS OCCURRED AND THE PROVINCE CONTINUES ITS NEW YEAR AVERAGE OF AT LEAST THREE BUSINESS PREMISES EACH DAY DESTROYED BY THE BOMBERS.

ROY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BOMBING, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BELFAS00016  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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